

Message Text

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TAGS: UN, OCON, EAGR
SUBJ: DATES AND DRAFT PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR WORLD FOOD
COUNCIL MEETINGS IN 1977

REF: A) STATE 009842 AND B) STATE 011147

1. U.S. SUGGESTION THAT MINISTERIAL SESSION OF WORLD FOOD COUNCIL
IN MANILA BE DEFERRED FROM JUNE 20 TO JULY 11 (REF A) WAS DISCUSSED
WITH WORLD FOOD COUNCIL ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HARRY WALTERS
JANUARY 17.

2. WALTERS SAYS IT WOULD BE EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO DELAY MEETING
BECAUSE DATES HAVE BEEN WORKED OUT IN MUCH DETAIL WITH WORLD FOOD
COUNCIL PRESIDENT MAREI, FAO DIRECTOR-GENERAL SAOUMA, AND PHILIP-
PINE GOVERNMENT.

3. WALTERS EXPRESSED OPINION THAT QTE THERE SEEMS TO BE NO GOOD
TIME TO CONVENE THE WORLD FOOD COUNCIL UNQTE CONSIDERING THE
CONFERENCES OF WHICH IT SHOULD TAKE ACCOUNT, AND ITS NEED TO MAKE
ITS OWN REPORT IN TIMELY FASHION THROUGH ECOSOC TO THE UN GENERAL
ASSEMBLY. HE POINTS OUT THAT WFC SECRETARIAT COLLABORATED WITH
OTHERS IN PRESSING FOR HOLDING RELEVANT COMMITTEE MEETINGS EARLIER
IN YEAR THAN MANY HAD WANTED (COMMENT: THEY ARE STILL STACKED
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UP IN APRIL AND MAY.) PLANS CALL FOR REPORT OF WORLD FOOD COUNCIL
TO BE PRESENTED EARLY IN ECOSOC'S 63RD SESSION, WHICH BEGINS
JULY 6 AND CONTINUES TO AUGUST 5, RATHER THAN AWAIT RESUMED
SESSION IN SEPTEMBER.

4. WE BELIEVE THAT WHILE SOME INTERVAL BETWEEN FAO COUNCIL
AND WORLD FOOD COUNCIL MINISTERIAL SESSIONS WOULD PERMIT LAST

MINUTE SHIFTS AND FIXES TO BE MADE IN POSITION PAPERS, IT WOULD BE EVEN MORE DESIRABLE THAT FAO COUNCIL AND OTHER RELEVANT MEETINGS PRECEDE THE PREPARATORY MEETING OF WORLD FOOD COUNCIL, WHICH IS SUPPOSED TO LAY THE GROUNDWORK AND SET THE STAGE FOR THE MINISTERIAL MEETING. WE DID NOT MAKE THIS POINT WITH WALTERS BECAUSE IT MIGHT UNDERCUT U.S. ARGUMENT FOR DELAY IN MINISTERIAL MEETING.

5. WALTERS EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT IN FUTURE YEARS, IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE FOR THE WORLD FOOD COUNCIL SESSIONS TO BE HELD IN THE FALL, SO THAT THEY MIGHT TAKE FULL ACCOUNT OF THE DISCUSSIONS OF OTHER BODIES, AND SET A BASIS FOR RELATED LATE-FALL AND SPRING MEETINGS. WE AGREE WITH THAT VIEW, PARTLY FOR REASONS SET FORTH IN PARA 4 ABOVE.

6. MOVEMENT OF DELEGATES FROM ROME TO MANILA OVER A WEEK-END TO SUPPORT THEIR MINISTERS WOULD BE AN ORDEAL. JUDGING FROM SCHEDULES NOW IN FORCE, U.S. DELEGATES WOULD HAVE TO LEAVE ROME AT 12:15 PM SATURDAY, CHANGE FLIGHTS IN TEHRAN AND BANGKOK, AND ARRIVE IN MANILA VIA A THAI FLIGHT NO EARLIER THAN 2:50 PM SUNDAY, WHILE OTHER DELEGATIONS COULD TAKE A THROUGH PHILIPPINE FLIGHT DEPARTING ROME AT 7:50 PM SATURDAY AND ARRIVING IN MANILA AT 7:25 PM SUNDAY. MANILA TIME IS SEVEN HOURS EARLIER THAN ROME.

7. WE BELIEVE THAT MAIN IMPLICATION OF JUNE 6-11 SCHEDULING OF LATIN AMERICAN MINISTERS MEETING IN EL SALVADOR IS THAT ITS DIRECT CONFLICT WITH THE FAO COUNCIL MAY IMPAIR BACK-UP OF THE LATIN AMERICAN MINISTERS IN MANILA, REGARDLESS OF THE TIMING OF UNCLASSIFIED

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THE LATTER MEETING.

8. AS FOR WALTERS' PLANS TO VISIT WASHINGTON (PARA 5 REF A), HE DOES PLAN TO SPEND THE SECOND WEEK OF FEBRUARY CONSULTING WITH AGENCIES IN WASHINGTON ABOUT THE WORLD FOOD COUNCIL SESSIONS. (COUNCIL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HANNAH IS SCHEDULED TO RETURN TO ROME JANUARY 21).

9. U.S. VIEWS ON THE WORLD FOOD COUNCIL (REF B) HAVE ALSO BEEN CONVEYED TO WALTERS.

10. WORLD FOOD COUNCIL SECRETARIAT PLANS TO HOLD ANOTHER CONSULTATION WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF WORLD FOOD COUNCIL MEMBER GOVERNMENTS IN ROME ON JANUARY 27. VOLPE

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